



Service Employees International Union – Oregon State Council

February 23, 2026

Chair Frederick, Vice-Chair Weber, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 4079A to Safeguard Students and Families.

My name is Alberto Gallegos, and I am providing testimony on behalf of SEIU Oregon, which is composed of two locals: Local 503 and Local 49. Together, we represent over 85,000 workers in Oregon and SW Washington who serve as janitors, security officers, maintenance and custodial workers, healthcare and homecare workers, and public employees at agencies such as ODOT, DHS, and BOLI. Our members clean, protect, and maintain your buildings; care for seniors and people with disabilities; and provide critical public services that keep Oregon running.

SEIU Oregon believes in building a just society where all workers are valued, all people are respected regardless of immigration status, all families and communities can thrive, and where we leave a more equitable world for generations to come. To that end, we strongly support this bill as part of the 2026 Immigrant Justice Package.

The rescission of federal guidance designating schools as “sensitive areas” in 2025 has created serious uncertainty and fear for workers, students, and families. Increased federal enforcement activity in and around schools has already led to lockdowns and emergency responses at multiple school sites, disrupting learning environments and causing widespread anxiety in our communities. These situations impact not only students, but also the essential workers who maintain safe, clean, and supportive school spaces every day.

This bill establishes proactive and responsive communication standards that help ensure consistent safety practices across school districts. Consistency is essential so that all students, parents, educators, and workers receive timely information and protection when incidents occur, so that schools can remain trusted hubs of safety, learning, and community stability.

SEIU Oregon urges this committee to pass HB 4079A.

Thank you,

Alberto Gallegos
Political and Government Relations Organizer
SEIU Oregon State Council